



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/387,796	09/01/1999	CATHERINE CHRISTENSEN	1992108	3026
45727	7590	08/23/2006		
LACASSE & ASSOCIATES, LLC 1725 DUKE STREET, SUITE 650 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER SAX, STEVEN PAUL	
			ART UNIT 2174	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/387,796		CHRISTENSEN ET AL	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Steven P. Sax		2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,12-16 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,12-16 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. The terminal disclaimer filed 6/13/05 has been entered. Due to a scan error, a previously submitted amendment had not been considered. Accordingly, the final rejection has been removed, and a new action responding to the amendment is now presented.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 5-10, 12-16, 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lui et al (US 2002/0118220) and Brown et al (7073121).

4. Regarding claim 1, Lui et al show the computer based method of visually delineating a relationship between related graphical objects in a graphical user interface (abstract, para 10), including: associating at least one icon with at least two diverse but related graphical objects (Figures 4-6, 6A, para 57, 59, 61), when one of the related objects is displayed, displaying the icon within the graphical object (Figures 5, 6A, para 67, 68, 69), wherein the displayed graphical objects are recognizable as related by the persistence of the icon (para 57, 12). Lui et al do not go into the details of the icon

having an associated color scheme in the displayed graphical objects, but does mention the persistence of the guide icon with its discernible shape, for a convenient recognizable feature. Furthermore, Brown et al show an associated color scheme in displayed graphical objects, for a convenient recognizable feature (para 44, para 52). It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to use the associated color scheme, in the method of Lui et al, because it would be a convenient recognizable feature to use in associating plural objects.

5. Regarding claim 2, the icon is displayed within a visible portion of the graphical object (Lui et al Figures 4, 6A).

6. Regarding claim 5, the persistence of the icon provides user assistance when traversing a series of graphical templates (Lui et al para 121, 158).

7. Regarding claim 6, the objects include windows and icons (Lui et al Figures 4-6, 6A).

8. Claim 7 shows the same features as claim 1 and is rejected for the same reasons.

9. Regarding claim 8, the objects are located within a graphical user interface (Lui et al Figure 4 for example, para 42).

10. Claims 9-10 shows the same features as claims 6-7 and are rejected for the same reasons respectively.

11. Claims 15-16 and 18 show the same features as claims 1-2 and 5 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons.

12. Claims 21-22 show the same features as claims 1 and 5 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons.

13. Regarding claim 12, in addition to that mentioned for claim 1, note the progression of the objects to reflect an evolution of development of the first object in the series (Lui et al Figures 4, 6A, para 103, 111, 121, 159).

14. Regarding claim 13, the persistence of the icon provides user assistance when traversing a series of graphical templates (Lui et al para 121, 158).

15. Regarding claim 14, the series of objects in Lui et al represent a user assistance wizard (para 47, 53, 121, 158).


16. Claims 19-20 show the same features as claims 12 and 14 respectively and are rejected for the same reasons.

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Note though that the double patenting rejection has been removed.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER